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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/006,267	12/03/2001	Alain Jean Falys	448/9-1621	2061

7590 04/03/2008
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EXAMINER

GREENE, DANIEL LAWSON

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3694

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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04/03/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/006,267	Applicant(s) FALYS ET AL.	
	Examiner DANIEL L. GREENE	Art Unit 3694	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 17-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-15 and 17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12/3/2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/4/2008 has been entered.
2. Claims 1-15 and 17-46 are pending. Claims 1-15 and 17 are withdrawn. An action on the merits of claims 18-46 follows.
3. Please note that the Examiner of record has changed.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to because Figure 5 does not contain a "yes" decision indication for step s8. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the

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drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - a. Page 4, Line 18, the abbreviation OSI must be spelled out the first time it is used.
 - b. Page 6, Line 25, the abbreviation ISO must be spelled out the first time it is used.
 - c. Page 8, Line 25, the abbreviation CGI must be spelled out the first time it is used.
 - d. Page 9, Line 19, the abbreviations FTP and HTTP must be spelled out the first time they are used.
 - e. Page 13, Line 4, the abbreviation VAT must be spelled out the first time it is used.
 - f. The use of the trademark "JAVA" has been noted in this application. It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

Appropriate correction is required.

Response to Amendment

6. Applicant's amendment to the claims have overcome the objections set forth on pages 4-5 of the previous Office action mailed 8/20/2007, accordingly said objections are withdrawn.

7. Applicant's amendment to the claims have overcome the 112 rejections set forth on pages 5-6 of the previous Office action mailed 8/20/2007, accordingly said rejections are withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments, with respect to the 103 rejection set forth on pages 7-20 of the previous Office action have been fully considered and are persuasive for at least the reason that Francis does not appear to convert the signal into a format different to that which was transmitted. Accordingly, the rejections have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. Examiner's Note: The Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims for the convenience of the applicant.

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Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

11. Claims 18-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,708,828 to Coleman.

NOTE: the limitation “invoice” has been considered as being nothing more than a document containing specific information or data, for example, an itemized bill for goods sold or services provided, containing individual prices, the total charge, and the terms, however, such is nothing more than data. In this regard, it is immaterial that the claims recite an "invoice" as such is nothing more than data. Accordingly, Coleman is directly applicable to processing invoices as well

as any other data that one desires to process. Further support for this may be found in, for example, applicant's own claim 44 wherein it is claimed that the invoices are comprised of data files.

Claims 18-32 are system claims which mirror method claims 33-46. Although the method claims are specifically addressed below, the system claims are rejected for at least the same reason, as a method claim inherently includes a system to perform said method.

Regarding claims 33 and 18, Coleman discloses an invoice (data) routing system (See, Fig. 2B and Fig. 3) and method for routing an invoice (input data) over a network having a transmitter, a router and a receiver, said method comprising:

transmitting (200) an invoice from said transmitter to said router;

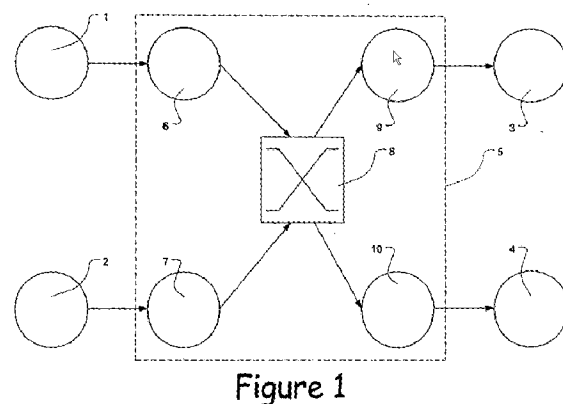
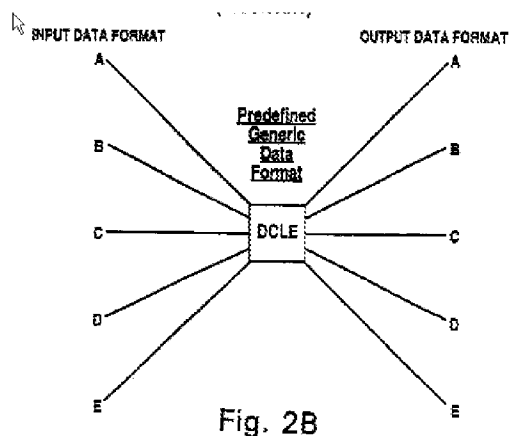
receiving (200) said invoice at said router;

electronically converting said received invoice into an intermediate invoice in a form having predetermined characteristics determined in dependence on an identity of a sender of the invoice (214);

electronically processing said intermediate invoice within said router into a secondary invoice in a form selected in relation to an identity of a party being invoiced (216); and

sending said secondary invoice from said router to a pre-selected destination (218) in, for example, the abstract, figures, etc.

Figure 2B clearly discloses applicant's invention as shown below. One can easily see the similarities by the comparison of Figure 1 of the instant invention.



See also Col. 5 lines 25-32

“the present invention comprises an improved system and method for converting data between different formats or types. The present invention converts data to a pre-defined generic data object or generic data type and then converts data from this generic type to the new format. This simplifies the conversion process. “

Regarding claims 34 and 19 and the limitation storing a plurality of input invoice mapping definitions and selecting an invoice mapping definition from said stored input invoice mapping definitions for use in said electronic processing of said received invoice, see for example, the abstract “The data conversion process begins by first defining **a complete data map of the input and output**

data environments, as well as zero or more intermediate environments... When an execute command is received, the data conversion system and method accesses data from the first input environment, i.e., **accesses data from the storage medium storing the data to be converted**, and converts the data from the first input data environment to data having a pre-defined generic data type.
“(emphasis added)

. **Regarding claims 35 and 20** and the limitation storing a plurality of output invoice mapping definitions and selecting an output invoice mapping definition from said stored output invoice mapping definitions for electronic processing of said received invoice, again, see the abstract wherein “**a complete data map of the input and output data environments**” is made. Further, “Once data has been converted to the generic data object, the **associations are executed to convert** the data from the pre-defined generic data type **to the output data using the second data format** (emphasis added). See also Col. 3, lines 5+.

Regarding claims 36 and 21 and the limitation storing said intermediate invoice in a storage location and retrieving said intermediate invoice from said storage location before electronic processing of said intermediate invoice, it must be understood that this limitation is inherent to the system because if the intermediate invoice (data) was NOT stored within the system then it could not be worked upon. In other words, the limitation “storing” does not connote any

particular type of “storing” and Coleman at least stores said intermediate data within a buffer so that it can be converted to the secondary format.

Regarding claims 37 and 22 and the limitation storing said received invoice in a received invoice archive, see for example, Col. 4 lines 53 and 54 wherein it is understood that the limitation “storage medium” reads on an “archive”.

Regarding claims 38 and 23 and the limitation wherein the electronic processing of said received invoice comprises determining a source of said received invoice from a buffer location and selecting an input invoice mapping definition in dependence on the source thereof, see for example, Col. 3 lines 24-40, wherein it is understood that the mapping definitions are defined for each input source so that the system can perform its functions.

Regarding claim 24, Coleman inherently performs the claimed limitation because it is applicable to multiple invoices and data conversions. That is, claim 24 merely claims that the process is being performed on a plurality of documents received together. It does not matter when the invoices are received as Coleman performs its intended conversion regardless. See also Col. 7, lines 11-14, wherein “batch automation” is disclosed.

Regarding claims 39 and 25 and the limitation wherein the electronic processing of said intermediate invoice comprises obtaining an invoice destination identification therefrom and selecting an output invoice mapping definition in dependence on the invoice destination identification, see for

example, Col. 3 lines 24-40 “the user also defines a complete data map of the **output** data environment” (emphasis added)

Regarding claims 40 and 26 and the limitation wherein the output processing means is configured to send the secondary invoices to buffer means selected in dependence on the invoice destination identification, see for example, Col. 5, lines 10-25 “the converted output data is stored in a destination medium (reads on buffer)”.

Regarding claims 41 and 27 and the limitation wherein the processing of said received invoice comprises using the selected input invoice mapping definitions to perform a data format conversion on data derived from said received invoice, see for example, Col. 3 lines 5+ wherein it is understood that in order to perform the data conversion, the user must first define a complete data map.

Regarding claims 42 and 28 and the limitation wherein the electronic processing of said received invoice includes adding data to said data derived from said received invoice, see for example, Col. 4, lines 10-28 wherein it is understood that the “MapTo” commands are indeed data added to said data which is used to determine the data's specific identity/purpose/etc. Furthermore it is notoriously old and well known to add a time date stamp to information to show when it was received.

Regarding claims 43 and 29 and the limitation wherein the processing of said intermediate invoice comprises using the selected output invoice mapping

definition to perform data format conversions on data derived from said intermediate invoice, see for example, Col. 5, lines 10-25, "Once data has been converted to the generic data object, the associations or MapTo commands are executed to convert the data from the pre-defined generic data type to the output data using the second data format. "

Regarding claims 44 and 30 and the limitation wherein the received and transmitted invoices are comprised of data files, see the first line of the abstract.

Regarding claims 45 and 31 and the limitation wherein said intermediate invoice comprises data placed in tables and stored in a database, see for example, Col. 3 lines 41-57.

Regarding claims 46 and 32 and the limitation wherein each table contains data from a plurality of received invoices and each received invoice provides data for a plurality of tables of said database, again, see for example, Col. 3 lines 41-57 wherein a plurality of databases are set forth as well as separating the data into separate databases.

Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL L. GREENE whose telephone number is (571)272-6876. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James P. Trammell can be reached on (571) 272-6712. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

13. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. L. G./
Examiner, Art Unit 3694
2008-03-31

/James P Trammell/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3694